CNG Engines

3474. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has developed and tested a kit with which diesel engines can run on CNG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the commercial run of CNG engines is likely to take place; and

(d) what is the cost variation between CNG and diesel run engines per 100 kilometer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Trials of commercial service on one Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) rake have recently commenced. Unlike conventional Engine, it works on dual fuel i.e. the load cycle is partially on diesel and partially on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

(d) Operating costs with a dual fuel engine are expected to be 25% less in financial terms, than Diesel based Diesel Multipie Units. It is however, premature to quantify savings, precisely.

Status of Surveys/Projects in Punjab

3475. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of surveys/projects going on in Punjab;

(b) the progress made in regard to these surveys/projects; and

(c) the time by which these projects/surveys are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):